AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for producing a gas cushion for supporting a preheated glass sheet, **[[**with**]]** comprising a chamber connected to a source of compressed gas, the chamber including an upper wall ~~of which chamber is adapted in its~~ having an external ~~dimensions~~ surface dimensioned to the outline of the glass sheet and **[[**has**]]** having a plurality of apertures for the passage of gas, wherein the apertures are designed as nozzles, ~~which have~~ each having an entry bore as well as a progressively widening exit hole and each being in fluid communication with the source of compressed gas so that the compressed gas passes first through the entry bore and then through the exit hole, and that the external surface of the upper wall of the chamber has a greater degree of perforation (sum of ~~the nozzle~~ exit areas of the exit holes in relation to **[[**the**]]** total area ~~of the respective zone~~) in edge zones of the external surface of the upper wall than in a central zone of the external surface of the upper wall which is completely surrounded by the edge zones.

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the central zone ~~of the upper wall of the chamber~~ roughly corresponds in the magnitude of its area to the sum of the edge zones.

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the degree of perforation in the central zone ~~of the upper wall of the chamber~~ to the degree of perforation in the edge zones amounts to approx. 0.5 to 0.9**[[,]]** ~~preferably approx. 0.7 – 0.8~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the external surface of the upper wall of the chamber has a degree of perforation of at most approx. 0.3**[[,]]** ~~preferably less than 0.25,~~ in its central zone.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the external surface of the upper wall of the chamber has a greater degree of perforation in the edge zones of its longer sides than in the edge zones of its shorter sides.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the degree of perforation of the external surface of the upper wall of the chamber diminishes from **[[**the**]]** a feed side for the glass sheet to **[[**the**]]** a side of the **[[**wall**]]** surface opposite the feed side.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the entry bore of at least one of the nozzles widens at least once abruptly in **[[**the**]]** a direction of flow of the compressed gas.

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 7, wherein the entry bore of the nozzles has a first section with a diameter of approx. 2 to 4 mm,

~~preferably of approx. 3 mm,~~ as well as a second section with a diameter of approx. 20 mm, whereby the exit hole follows on from the ~~latter~~ second section.

9. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 8, wherein the entry bore of the nozzles has a third section with a diameter of approx. 10 mm between the first and second section.

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 9, wherein at least the first, the second and the third section are formed cylindrically**[[,]]** ~~preferably with a coinciding cylinder axis~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the external surface of the upper wall of the chamber is covered by a thin porous cloth made of heat-resistant material.

12. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 11, wherein the cloth is made of heat-conductive material**[[,]]** ~~preferably of corrosion-resistant steel (stainless steel)~~.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the chamber is made of ceramic material.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the chamber is designed as a one-piece moulding.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the chamber is provided with heating elements.

16. (New) The device according to claim 3, wherein the ratio of the degree of perforation in the central zone to the degree of perforation in the edge zones amounts to approx. 0.7 – 0.8.

17. (New) The device according to claim 4, wherein the external surface of the upper wall of the chamber has a degree of perforation of at most approx. 0.25 in its central zone.

18. (New) The device according to claim 8, wherein the first section has a diameter of approx. 3 mm.

19. (New) The device according to claim 10, wherein at least the first, the second and the third section are formed with a coinciding cylinder axis.

20. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the cloth is made of corrosion-resistant steel (stainless steel).